

# CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

BULLETIN OF CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Newark Ward 1 Section

## STRUGGLE BROADENS ON URBAN RENEWAL, RELOCATION, SCHOOLS

### COUNCIL MEETS MAY 7

#### SCHOOL CRISIS MAJOR TOPIC

All CHNC members are invited to attend the next general assembly meeting of the Council on May 7, Friday evening, 8 p.m.

The location will be St. Calvary Baptist Church, Hawthorne and Seymour Avenues.

The Crisis in Our Schools will be the main topic for action-discussion. (For more on schools, see page 1.)

Under the planning of the education committee, a program has been arranged as follows:

Dr. Edward Bell, chairman.

Brief run-downs on conditions at each Clinton Hill school by a parent at each.

Round-table talk-out on how people feel about the schools.

Proposals for action.

Whether or not you have a school-age child, you will want to attend this meeting.

For without quality education for the great number of Newark youngsters, the future of many families is bleak.

Jobs - useful lives - happiness - security - depend on the right kind of education.

#### To Elect Officers

The meeting will also elect officers to fill vacancies caused by resignations and inactivity.

The posts open are for Vice-President and for Treasurer. Nominations will be presented both by the executive committee and by individual members from the floor.

Please get your nominee's consent (in writing) so his nomination can be received on May 7.

#### Raffles and Dues

Thomas F. Edwards, CHNC president, reminded members, "Bring your 1965 dues to the meeting if you haven't already paid. And don't forget to push the raffles."

Mr. Edwards added, "The dollars and cents we put into the Council make the wheels go round. They pay for leaflets and postage, our main expenses."

For Other Important Meetings  
Consult Council Calendar, Inside Page

#### COUNCIL PICKET LINES ON UPWARD

April was a time of picketing. On April 12 we picketed the Newark Housing Authority, on April 14, Atlantic City where Louis Cusala, NHA chief was speaking. On April 27 we were in front of the Bd. of Education. A total of 30 persons took part in these actions.

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### NEW FORCES ENTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST MASS CLEARANCE FOR LIGHT INDUSTRY

Recent weeks have seen a new stage in the four-year struggle of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council to prevent wide demolitions of the blocks between Bergen St. and Belmont Ave. for light industrial re-use.

Those who may have counted the people out after the "blight" lawsuit was lost have had to take another look at the situation.

Certain definite victories can now be chalked up to the Council's credit, but more remains to be won before we can breathe easily.

#### AREA REDUCED

One such definite victory came last February, when the area south of Aron (to Watson) was removed from "active planning." It is still a "blighted" area, however, and can be reactivated at some future time. Several persons who should know the score have called this change in the project boundary line "the greatest victory for the community since Newark's redevelopment program began 10 years ago."

#### 24 BLOCKS NOW AT STAKE

Right now, the area under "active treatment" is the 24-blocks north of Aron to 17th Ave. It includes Fischer Bakery, GE Plant, Rhoard's Paint, and 18th Avenue School.

About 6,000 people live in the area, 1,000 of whom are in Field Court Public Housing which would remain in any case.

The others are homeowners and tenants, and about 150 small businesses.

Parts of the area are quite run-down, especially those owned by absentee landlords or near junkyards and scrap yards. But many houses have gotten central heat and improved toilet and bath facilities in recent years.

#### NEIGH-PLANING PEOPLE JOIN IN

Under the initiative of the Council's Save Our Homes Committee, people living north of Aron have become involved in the urban renewal fight for the first time.

Two weeks ago, 24 people turned out in a deputation to get the low-down on the Land Re-use Plan and what they could expect from the Newark Housing Authority, redevelopment agency of the city.

#### WIN FOUR REPRESENTS DOWNTOWN

Since this Land Re-use Plan was first passed, in February at hastily called meetings of the Planning Board, it has been stalled in the City Council, thanks to the interest of most of the Councilmen.

Meanwhile, the Save Our Homes Committee and area residents have been busy getting legal and planning advice and enlisting outside organizational help.

On April 13, a joint meeting was gathered with the City Council, the Housing Authority  
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## Recognize Victories and Defeats

As a critical 12 months opens before us (a long, hot summer and a hot election for Mayor and City Council), it's important to know what we want and even more, how to get it.

The first thing is to recognize victories, defeats, and stand-offs when they take place. For instance, the out-back in the Light Industrial Area to north of Avon was a victory. It was largely a Clinton Hill Council victory because no one else has really been dogging this fight.

If we win major changes in the Land Use Plan for the area north of Avon, that will be another victory, because what happens to our neighbors there will affect us in Clinton Hill. That's a bitter lesson it has taken 12 years to learn, because many of us thought that by moving from the Central Ward, we could forget about its problems.

But the problems just kept coming after us anyway - overcrowded and run-down schools, over-used housing run by slum landlords, Central Ward roaches and rats, etc. The slumlords who got rich on us in the Central Ward now can catch of Clinton Hill. And the city government can't or won't bring them under control.

Another victory was in the Master Plan hearing.

This took place in January, when, at Clinton Hill Council initiative, a coalition of 20 persons representing 7-8 different groups spoke at the hearing and criticized basic deficiencies in the Master Plan.

As a result 1) a winning pool was programmed for the South Ward. We have to insist that it go up in Clinton Hill where there are the most youngsters and least facilities. 2) The School Board was slapped for lacking its own master plan for school construction. With a boost from the Mayor, after strong pressure was put on him by better-schools groups, the Board of Education asked the Sept. of Schools to begin such a plan, and added funds, previously cut, were restored to the school budget.

These were victories. They show the people's power when united.

But we are also going down to defeats, every day in every way.

The city is being carved up like a cheese-cake for outside developers and firms who are getting prime land at mark-downs. Former residents are displaced from convenient sites, many to enter more expensive housing elsewhere.

The small homeowner and the tenant are footing the bill for these land giveaways through high taxes, higher rents, and digging into surplus funds to keep the tax-rate level. Meanwhile, the new landlords of the luxury apartments and new business buildings get "tax ceilings" and moderate assessments to encourage their entry into the city.

*His steady inward upon our industry, through large-scale land and tax outbidding, seems less bread and milk, fewer hose repairs, scripping here and there.*

Only a big change in the outlook of the people running Newark will change this chain of defeats to victory.

And only united activity by all people who are worried and want to do something will change the downtown outlook.

Otherwise, we face an extended series of day-to-day battles, knock-down and drag-out, and how long that may go on is anybody's guess.

## URBAN RE- MOVAL

(continued from page 1)  
and the Clinton Hill Council. The Mayor also attended.

We were represented by Pres. Thomas Edwards, Vice Pres. Rose Hayman, Save Our Homes Chairman Stan Winters, and Bergen-Fairview representative Sid Brown.

Editor Thabit, planning consultant, advised us during the meeting.

### BACK AT REVENUE

The steady stream of suggestions and criticisms made to the City Council, to Federal Administrator Robert Weaver, and to the Newark Housing Authority have not been without their effect.

Councilman Bernstein of the South Ward has spoken in our behalf at public meetings of the City Council. On April 21 he moved to table the Land Use Plan. The motion lost 5-4.

Voting for tabling (which we wanted) were Bernstein, Frank Addonizio, Mickey Montempe, and Irvine Turner. Leading the fight against was Council Pres. Villani.

A long effort by Turner to get another deferment finally went through, and the 50 supporters we brought to the meeting cheered.

(continued next column)

Now another round is coming up in May 5, at 8 p.m. in City Hall. Be there!

Speaking in behalf of an amended Land Use Plan, which would guarantee relocation, reduce the area for industry, and utilize citizen participation were:

Fred Mann, CORE; Sid Brown, Bergen Street; Rev. Howard Goaringer, Newark Citizens for Community Action; Tom Edwards, A.A. Bentley; Stan Winters; Rev. Fleming; Gerald Grossberg, Pres. Neenahville Community Council.

Councilman Montempe supported our objections by saying, "We live in Wallburg and don't know the problem these people face!"

### PREPARE STUDY

The Save Our Homes Committee has prepared a 3-page review of the whole Light Industrial Project fight.

If you wish a copy (a few are left), please write 26 Stanley or call RI 3-6880.

Among previous speakers at the April 7 City Council meeting were Bill Payne and Andy Washington, in addition to others above.

A housing law expert and an architect have been cooperating with the Save Our Homes Committee in the Land Use Plan fight.

If you would like to work with the committee, call Tom Edwards, 371-7858 or Stan Winters, RI 3-6880.